agencies as per Government instructions issued from time to time on the basis of the post based rosters.

Importance to preventive medicines

813. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether preventive medicines are being given more importance to create a healthier nation; and

(b) if so, what are the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare attaches great importance to preventive health care. Under the Immunization Programme, vaccinations to infants and pregnant women are given for control of vaccine preventable diseases namely childhood tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, polimyelitis, measles and neonatal tetanus. For preventing blindness, prophylactic Vitamin "A" is given to children and for prevention of anemia, Iron and Folic Acid tablets are given to children and pregnant women.

Increase in TB

814. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidence of the dreaded disease TB has increased many times in recent years;

(b) whether the incidence is more in rural areas and in the BPL population;

(c) if so, the specific measures being contemplated to combat this disease; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The incidence of TB has remained more or less the same over the recent years.

(b) to (d) There is not recent nation wide study undertaken on this

issue. However, the RNTCP, which is under implementation and which has at present a coverage of 400 million population, seeks to control this disease by offering free diagnostic treatment facilities to all segments of the population in the districts covered, to achieve a cure rate of more than 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect 70% of such cases.

HIV/AIDS awareness campaign

815. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only four per cent women in the country had even heard of AIDS despite NACO's massive HIV/AIDS budget;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the concrete steps taken or proposed for vigorous awareness campaign to contain this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) carried out in 1998-99 the awareness levels on HIV/AIDS is 40.30% (All India). The awareness levels in urban areas being 70.3% and 29.7% in rural areas.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) In the National AIDS Control Programme-II, the National AIDS Control Organisation is giving the highest priority to an effective and sustained strategy to bring about changes in behaviour to prevent further spread of infection. For an effective Information, Education & Communication (IEC) campaign a full range of activities and approaches from mass media campaigns for public education to the use of targeted interventions to help individuals negotiate safer practices is being used. Information, Education & Communication (IEC) programmes have also been integrated in various components of the programme such as STD services, condom programming and blood safety.

The Information, Education & Communication (IEC) strategy in